

7 October 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**SUBJECT: Soviet Submarine Construction**

1. On 31 January 1958, a large submarine was observed alongside the Sudomekh Shipyard in Leningrad. Since then two, and probably three, more hulls of this type have also been seen at this shipyard. These submarines are estimated to be 320 feet long with a beam of 27 to 30 feet. They are streamlined and, although modern in appearance, show no evidence of advanced systems such as nuclear propulsion or a missile-launching installation. These ships have diesel engines and are snorkel equipped. External configuration suggests the presence of both active and passive sonar systems, two periscopes, bow and stern torpedo tubes, radar and other unidentified equipment on retractable masts.

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3. [REDACTED] ORR does not completely agree with the assessment that these submarines are new class. The short building time (approximately 3½ months for one unit) and the fact that one unit apparently remained at the shipyard less than two weeks are not compatible with the time required in constructing the early serial models of a modern submarine class.

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NSA, FBI reviews completed

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ONI believes that the weight of evidence indicates that these submarines are new construction but that this view is not yet conclusive.

4. A meeting was held on 16 September, at ONI's request, between representatives of ONI, ORR, OSI and OCI to discuss the divergent views on this subject. This meeting did not resolve any differences and adjourned more or less agreeing to disagree.

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